Ban on smoking

1101. SHRI ASHOK MITRA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government intend to conform to the directives on tobacco smoking issued from time to time by the World Health Organisation;

(b) whether there is a proposal afoot to intensify the campaign against cigarette smoking in the public media; and

(c) whether Government are contemplating a date by which the smoking of tobacco in any form will be completely banned in the country?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. R. ANTULAY): (a) to (c) There is a proposal to bring a comprehensive lagislation to discourage the use of tobacco and tobacco products including a ban on use/consumption of tobacco in public places.

Indian Red Cross Matters

1102. DR. B. B. DUTTA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the management of the Indian Red Cross Society (IRCS) have been continuously violating, since 1992, the statutory rules 4(1), 4(3), 5(3), 5(10), 6, 7, 8, 6(1), 7(2), 7(9), 12, 12(3) framed under the IRCS Act, 1920;

(b) whether it is also a fact that all major Red Cross matters are decided arbitrarily and consequently there are growing financial and administrative indiscipline and increasing Government interference; and

(c) the steps taken so far to restore the autonomous/voluntary character of the Indian Red Cross Society?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. R. ANTULAY): (a) According to the information received from the Indian Red Cross Society (IRCS), the factual position statutory Rules-wise, is as under:—

Rule 4 (1) and 4 (3): These Rules relate to the Annual General Meeting of IRCS and the business to be transacted therein. The action to convene such a meeting in the first quarter of 1996 has been initiated by IRCS.

Rule 5(3) and 5(10): These Rules relate to the Managing Body of IRCS. The Managing Body of IRCS has been meeting from time to time to transact important business of IRCS. The decisions regarding participation of IRCS in the meetings of the International Federation of Red Cross And Red Crescent Societies have had the approval/ ex-post facto approval of the Managing Body of IRCS.

Rule 6, 7, 8 and 7(2) and 7(9): The Executive Committee, Finance Committee and Medical and Maternity & Child Welfare Committee of IRCS were constituted under these Rules. The matters relating to the finances of the IRCS are placed before the Finance Committee/Managing Body.

Rule No. 12 & 12 (3): All transactions relating to the investing of the IRCS are done with the approval of the Treasurer/ Chairman of IRCS and duly reported to the Finance Committee/Managing Body for ratification.

(b) No, Sir. According to the information received from IRCS, nothing is done arbitrarily so as to result in administrative/financial indiscipline.

(c) According to IRCS, it continues to retain its autonomous/voluntary character.

Funds for Rural Development programmes in Maharashtra

1103. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the allocation of funds for various rural development Programmes in

Maharashtra for the remaining period of Eighth Plan period has been finalised by Government;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) if not, what are the reasons therefor; and

(d) by when Government propose to finalise the allocation to enable the State to decide its priorites?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT) (SHRI UTTAMBHAI H. PATEL): (a) to (d) The major rural development programmes being implemented by the Central Government in various States including Maharashtra are (i) Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP), (ii) Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY), (iii) Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS) and (iv) Accelearated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP). The allocation of funds for various States including Maharashtra for these Programmes for the remaining period of the 8th Plan has not been finalised so far. This will be finalised after Annual Plan outly for 1996-97 is decided by the Planning Commisssion.

Re-emergence of Tuberculosis

1104. SHRI S. AUSTIN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of re-emergance fo tuberculosis;

(b) if so, the causes of re-emergence thereof; and

(c) the steps Government propose to take to check the re-emergence if T.B.?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A.R. ANTULAY): (a) to (c) The statistics about the number of TB cases reported during the last three years reveals that there is no re-emergence of the disease.

The National Tuberculosis Control Programme launched by the Government in 1962 has succeeded in reducing the mortality rate. Childhood TB and serious form of Tuberculosis in adults are on the decline. The efforts being made to combat the disease are by expending the National Tuberculosis Control Programme and through its effective implementatibn. A revised strategy to detect TB cases through quality microsocony and to achieve 85% cure rate among the sputum positive cases and Directly Observed Therepy (DOT) of more effective short-course chemotherapy is being tested in selected project-areas in five districts and ten cities.

Auction of Railway Properties

1105. SHRI PASUMPON THA KIRUTTINAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the southern Railway has decided to auction the Railway properties including the premises of Railay Station at Ranipet;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(c) whether there have been objections and agitation among the public;

(d) if so, what are the reactions of Government thereto; and

(e) the Railway Station in Southern Railway going to be closed and auctioned?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SURESH KALMADI): (a) No. Sir;

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

(e) There is no such proposal.

रोहतांग दर्रे पर सुरंग का निर्माण

1106. **श्री महेश्वर सिंह:** क्या प्रधान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) हिमाचल प्रदेश में रोहतांग दर्रे पर प्रस्तावित सुरंग के निर्माण की अद्यतन स्थिति क्या है;

(ख) गत वर्ष सर्वेक्षण/संपर्क सड़कों के निर्माण पर कितनी धनराशि खर्च की गई; और

(ग) प्रस्तावित सुरंग के दोनों ओर कितने-कितने किलोमीटर पर संपर्क सड़कों का निर्माण किया गया है?